Supplying information regarding marine catche to fishermen

5503. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether information regarding marine catche and matters connected therewith is being supplied to fishermen community from satellite;

(b) the names of Coastal States where such information is being supplied; and

(c) whether Government have assessed the benefits to the fishing community from this new facility, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Information on potential fishing zones, derived using Satellite based data is supplied to the fishing community twice a week from October to May every year from 1990 onwards.

(b) This information is supplied under a project funded by Department of Ocean Development to the Coastal States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

(c) A sample survey conducted during 2001 in three States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala as well as the interactive workshops held recently in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have brought out that this information helps the fishing community to improve the catche per unit effort as well as reduction in the search time thereby saving in diesel.

Study on melting of glaciers

5504. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has commissioned projects to study the melting of glaciers and of the resultant threat of global warming;

(b) whether the Centre has woken up to the threats of receding glaciers in the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins and if so, whether the Centre would